

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Some organic compounds can be present not in a single structure, but as a mixture of different tautomers. In most cases only one of these tautomeric structures can be isolated. The other one(s) is/are converted into the more stable structure while the more stable one is isolated, for example, by distillation, as a result of chemical equilibrium. Therefore, it is in most cases not possible to isolate all tautomers of an organic compound.

Based on this, it is not possible to explicitly identify one or more tautomeric structures of 4,12-dimethylcyclo-2,4':2'',7'':2'',4''':2''',7-quaterbenzimidazole according to example 3, as required by the Examiner. According to page 10, lines 4 to 7 of the description, in tautomeric structures of this compound NH-C=N can be N=C-NH .

Therefore, tautomeric structures that can be elected are 4,12-dimethylcyclo-2,4':2'',7'':2'',4''':2''',7-quaterbenzimidazoles in which at least one of NH-C=N is N=C-NH and vice versa.

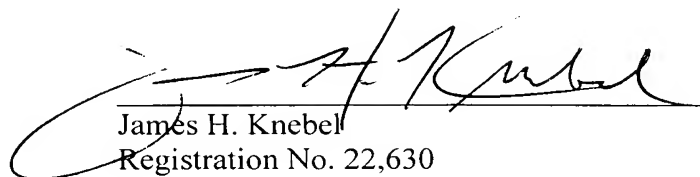
Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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